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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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LADAS & PARRY
26 WEST 61ST STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10023

EXAMINER

KWON, BRIAN YONG S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1614

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2004

16

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/535,390

Applicant(s)

GHOSH ET AL.

Examiner

Brian S Kwon

Art Unit

1614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Application

1. Acknowledgement is made of applicants' filing of the instant application as CPA under 37 CFR Section 1.53(d). Claims 2-17 are currently pending in the application.
2. By the amendment filed After-Final on December 9, 2002, claim 1 has been cancelled and claim 14 has been amended.
3. In response to the examiner's withdrawal of claims 2-8 and 14-17, applicants allege that claims 2-8 and 14-17 should be included in the examination since they are related to the treatment of septic shock. As for claims 14-17, the examiner agrees with applicants since the newly amended claims are related to the originally examined invention that is directed to a method of treating septic shock conditions. However, with respect to claims 2-8, the examiner maintains that the subject matter of claims 2-8 is distinctive from the originally examined invention since they are directed to a laboratory (in vivo) diagnostic procedure for monitoring or assaying the activity of curcumin on LPS induced septic shock. One practicing the invention of the claims 2-8 would not necessarily be required to practice the originally elected invention. Furthermore, the search for above inventions would not be co-extensive, particularly as to the literature search required. Clearly each of the above inventions is capable of supporting its own patent. Thus, the claims 2-8 are still withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, as being drawn to non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Art Unit: 1614

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 14-15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Aggarwal (WO 970877).

Aggarwal teach a use of curcumin in treating septic shock condition, wherein said curcumin is administered in a dose of from about 1mg/kg to about 100mg/kg (page 1, line 21 thru page 2, line 2; page 2, lines 13-15; Claims 1 and 3).

Although Aggarwal is silent about the underlying mechanism of “controlling neutrophil infiltration”, such underlying pharmacological mechanism must be inherently presented in the referenced method since the prior art method employs the same compound (i.e., curcumin) in the overlapping concentration for the same ultimate purpose. It is noted to applicants that the prior art directing the administration of same compound inherently possessing a therapeutic effect for the same ultimate purpose as disclosed by Applicants anticipates the claimed invention even absent explicit recitations of the mechanism of action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 1614

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
5. Claims 9-12 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aggarwal (WO 9709877) in view of Ammon et al. (US 5401777).

The teaching of Aggarwal has been discussed in above 35 USC 102(b) rejection.

Ammon teaches an oral dosage form of curcumin including suspension wherein the oral dosage form is prepared in non-toxic organic solvent or oil (abstract; column 7, lines 3-34).

The teaching of Aggarwal differs from the claimed invention in (i) oral administration, specifically “orally as a suspension in pharmacologically acceptable non-toxic organic solvent or oil”; (ii) the specific time intervals; (iii) “observing every two or three hours for septic shock”; and (iv) “probing reduction in neutrophil infiltration from blood vessels to the underlying tissue by staining and microscopically examining the extent of inflammation ”.

However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art since the claimed oral administration of curcumin is well known in the art. The above references in combination make clear that the administration of curcumin for the treatment of inflammatory condition such as septic shock condition is old and well known. The above references in combination also make clear that the administration of curcumin in the oral dosage form is old and well known. One having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such

Art Unit: 1614

modification to extend the usage of curcumin in readily available oral dosage form to accommodate patient's preference and needs where the compliance could be improved with effective and well tolerated dosage regimen.

The prior art does not disclose the required specific time interval and "observing every two to three hours". However, differences in time interval requirements or time periods will not support the patentability of subject matter encompassed by the prior art unless there is evidence indicating such time periods is critical. Where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable time periods by routine experimentation.

The prior art does not disclose the required step of "probing reduction in neutrophil infiltration from blood vessels to the underlying tissue by staining and microscopically examining the extent of inflammation". However, such probing technique will not support the patentability of subject matter encompassed by the prior art unless there is evidence indicating such probing technique is critical. Where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the probing technique by routine experimentation.

6. Claims 13 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aggarwal (WO 9709877) in view of Schneider (US 6013273).

The teaching of Aggarwal has been discussed in above 35 USC 102(b) rejection.

Schneider et al. (US 6013273) teaches the use of antioxidant in treating septic or endotoxin shock (column 4, lines 51-53).

The teaching of Aggarwal differs from the claimed invention in combination with an antioxidant preparation. To incorporate such teaching into the teaching of Aggarwal, would

Art Unit: 1614

have been obvious in view of Schneider et al. who teaches the use of antioxidant in treating septic shock.

Above references in combination make clear that curcumin and antioxidant have been individually used for the treatment of septic (or endotoxin) shock. It is obvious to combine two compositions each of which is taught by prior art to be useful for same purpose; idea of combining them flows logically from their having been individually taught in the prior art. The combination of active ingredient with the same character is merely the additive effect of each individual component. *See In re Kerkhoven, 205 USPQ 1069 (CCPA 1980).*

The above references in combination make clear that the combination of curcumin and antioxidant for the treatment of septic shock is old and well known. One having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so such that such combination provides enhanced activity in treating septic shock while minimizing adverse effects.

As stated above, the prior art does not disclose the underlying pharmacological mechanism of curcumin in "controlling neutrophil infiltration". However, the fact that the applicant may have discovered a new pharmacological mechanism for curcumin is not considered patentably distinctive over the prior art which are directed to the same therapeutic application (for the treatment of septic shock condition).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed December 9, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Art Unit: 1614

Applicant's argument takes position that applicant's discovery of the activity of curcumin in "the prevention of neutrophil infiltration leading to prevention of septic shock" is novel and important part of the finding wherein the inventors provide evidence for the first time. The examiner agrees that none of prior art cited by the examiner specifically discloses the underlying pharmacological mechanism of "preventing neutrophil infiltration from blood vessels to underlying tissues". However, such underlying pharmacological mechanism must be inherently presented in the referenced method since the prior art method employs the same compound (i.e., curcumin) in the overlapping concentration for the same ultimate purpose. The prior art directing the administration of same compound inherently possessing a therapeutic effect for the same ultimate purpose as disclosed by Applicants anticipates the claimed invention even absent explicit recitations of the mechanism of action.

Conclusion

8. No Claim is allowed.
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Kwon whose telephone number is (571) 272-0581. The examiner can normally be reached Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 am to 7:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marianne Seidel, can be reached on (571) 273-0584. The fax number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Application/Control Number: 09/535,390

Page 8

Art Unit: 1614

Brian Kwon
Patent Examiner
AU 1614

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vickie Kim', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Vickie Kim
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1600